

Such hubris cannot be allowed to stand unchallenged. Along with my colleague, the chairman of the Resources Committee, RICHARD POMBO, I am introducing today legislation to address this deplorable situation and to restore the public's right of access to its Federal public lands. The liberation of Navassa and Desecheo Islands begins today.

This legislation would accomplish two main goals. First, it would require the Fish and Wildlife Service to provide public access, use of, and recreational opportunities to resolve this particular dispute. Second, the legislation would require the Service to establish at least one period of time each year for public access to each refuge.

Of great importance to me, language authorizing the Service to specify use periods and to attach reasonable permit restrictions in order to protect resources and public safety should provide adequate flexibility to balance the competing interests of resource protection and public recreation.

Another benefit of this legislation will be to help harmonize existing use policies at these refuges with three other remote refuges in the Pacific, Baker Island, Johnson Island and Jarvis Island. These three refuges, all accessible by way of special use permits, show plainly that controlled public recreational access is possible even at extremely remote and fragile refuges.

In fact, the ham radio operators were successful in securing a permit to visit Baker Island as recently as 2002. In fairness, the same access should be provided to Navassa Island and Desecheo.

I am fully aware of the Service's need to balance public access with the Refuge System's overall "wildlife first" mission.

The Service cannot, however, be allowed to selectively choose to implement those parts of its authority it favors but ignore those requirements to provide for public recreation which are clearly stated in existing law.

I urge members to support this important legislation.

CONGRATULATING RAMSEY COUNTY COMMISSIONER SUSAN HAIGH AS THE NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF TWIN CITIES HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 25, 2005

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ramsey County Commissioner Susan Haigh on being named the new Executive Director of Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity. Ms. Haigh will assume this new position after she leaves her seat on the County Board on February 1st.

For the past ten years, Commissioner Haigh served on the Ramsey County Board, championing affordable housing and improving the quality of life for the families of Ramsey County. Currently she chairs the Board's Human Services and Workforce Solutions Committee where she has advocated for families throughout Ramsey County. Before serving in her elected office, Haigh worked in the Ramsey County Attorney's Office, serving as chief legal counsel to the County Board, chief deputy prosecutor and managing attorney.

Throughout her years of service, Commissioner Haigh has put the families of Ramsey County first. As county commissioner, Ms. Haigh led the creation of the Housing Endowment Fund, a \$5 million incentive program to spur construction of affordable rental housing. This kind of valuable experience will help Twin Cities Habitat address the increasing challenges of affordable housing development.

Commissioner Haigh brings fresh vision and wisdom of experience to Habitat for Humanity. I have had the privilege of working with her, and I know that she is deeply committed to affordable housing issues. Ms. Haigh believes in Habitat's mission of helping to build strong homes and strong families.

Over the years, Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity has helped nearly 600 families become owners of quality, affordable housing. I am confident that Ms. Haigh will continue this record of success.

It has been a privilege to work with Sue, and I wish her the best of luck on her new position.

RECOGNIZING VICTOR O. WOY

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 25, 2005

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Victor O. Woy for his 32 years of committed service to the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission. His presence with the Commission will be sorely missed.

A lifelong resident of Everett, PA, Victor began his journey through the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission as a clerk. After proving himself as a capable worker and quietly earning recognition for his incomparable performance on the job, Mr. Woy's distinguishing loyalty was acknowledged as he became a Construction Manager. Working tirelessly to overcome the obstacles of having to learn and master continually changing technology, Victor flourished in this position, where he remained until December 9, 2004, and was awarded the Senior Inspector-in-Charge of the Year award in 1999.

To the enjoyment of local citizens, Mr. Woy's spirit and dedication has translated into every aspect of his life. He remains actively involved with his church and various projects in and around Everett, as well as spending time with his wife, five children and five grandchildren. His uncompromising sense of duty to the community in which he lives has been a source of inspiration.

In the 32 years that Mr. Woy has had a significant hand in the operations, the Turnpike Commission has become a more efficient organization, making a strong impact on the State. He has demonstrated an unyielding enthusiasm and care for the Commission which he has served. For his incomparable generosity, service to the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission, and unabated commitment to excellence, Victor O. Woy deserves the highest recognition. He has left behind a legacy as an outstanding manager, incorporating leadership skills, innovative solutions to problems, and an efficient work ethic.

As a pillar of strength within his community of Everett, Mr. Woy has been a role model and leader who is admired by many. His con-

tributions will not go unnoticed by the business for which he worked nor the community in which he lives. I would like to congratulate Mr. Woy on his accomplishments, and I wish him the best of luck in his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO WALTER W. PORTER, JR.

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 25, 2005

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the life and work of a man who I am proud to represent in Congress and prouder still to call a friend, Walter W. Porter, Jr. I have worked with Walter closely over the years and can say without reservation Mr. Speaker, that you would be hard pressed to find an individual more committed to improving the lives of those in his community than Walter Porter.

A life-long resident of my hometown, Paterson, New Jersey, Walter Porter has had an extensive career in public service. Matriculating from the Paterson Public School System, Walter met and married his wife Mildred shortly after graduating from Eastside High School. Walter Porter's life has long been intertwined with public service. His selfless devotion to others began when he entered into the Army to fight in World War II. As an Infantry Combat Officer, Walter earned a Bronze Star, Combat Infantry Badge and Purple Heart for his heroic actions.

Upon returning from the frontlines of the Battle of the Bulge, Walter joined the Paterson Police Department. It was during his tenure as a motorcycle officer that Walter came to be known around town as a "straight shooter and a man of the people." The knowledge and experiences Walter gained on the streets of Paterson laid the foundation for the many successful years of public service ahead.

Remaining in the law enforcement sector, Walter transferred to the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office where he rose to the rank of Captain. After a long and successful tenure with the Prosecutor's Office, Walter retired in 1979. However, he would not rest on his laurels. The year following his retirement, Walter ran for a seat on the Passaic County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

After a successful bid for Freeholder, Walter began to work diligently on behalf of the people of Passaic County. Throughout his tenure on the Board of Chosen Freeholders Walter Porter has been a steady supporter of the law enforcement community, veterans groups and the senior citizen community of Passaic County.

Chosen by his colleagues on the Freeholder Board, Walter has served four one-year terms as Freeholder Director. Additionally, he has served on each of the committees within the Freeholder Board. His professional demeanor and commitment to good government earned Walter the moniker, "Dean of the Board of Freeholders."

Walter's tireless devotion to serving the people of Passaic County extends far beyond his life as a public official. He is a co-founder of the Boys & Girls Club of Paterson, a Life Member of Elks Lodge #60 and a member of several veterans' organizations.